



MINUTES
MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
 Wednesday, September 1, 2010
 6:00-8:00 PM
 Council Chambers- Town Hall

PRESENT: K. Grunwald (staff), J. Higham, S. Baxter (staff), E. Gresh (staff), J. Goldman, J. Stoughton (co-chair), G. Bent (co-chair), C. Guerreri, V. Fry, L. Dahn, M. LaPlaca, MJ Newman, L. Young, P. Braithwaite, J. Suedmeyer (United Way), R. Leclerc (staff), A. Bloom
REGRETS: L. Holle, D. McLaughlin, S. Daley, K. Paulhus

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ ACTIONS
Actions needed and Announcements	<p>-Welcome: G. Bent called the meeting to order at 6:08 PM and introduced new MAC member Mark LaPlaca.</p> <p>-Adopt minutes of August 4, 2010</p> <p>-Announcements: Form created for the Monthly Financial Report was distributed as negotiated with the United Way. This report will be provided to members monthly. A budget revision has also been done.</p> <p>G. Bent asked for members to indicate where they would like to spend their time at the following <u>Local Events</u>:</p> <p>Know Your Towns Fair 9/11/10: no volunteers. Festival on the Green (MJ Newman has developed an interactive game for children) 9/12: recommendation that this is the best event for MAC's involvement.</p> <p>Farm to Table Event 9/28/10: G. Bent reported that the Executive Committee decided that MAC will not provide funding for the event but will provide volunteers. K. Grunwald encouraged members to obtain tickets early if they are interested in attending.</p> <p>UConn Work Life Expo 10/7/10 9:00-3:00PM – G. Bent asked if MAC could partner with other Early Care</p>	<p>Minutes were adopted as written.</p> <p>Decided that we will not have a table at Know Your Towns Fair. Contact Gloria or Sandy if interested in volunteering for the Festival.</p> <p>Contact Gloria or Sandy if you are interested in volunteering.</p> <p>Materials will be provided to the</p>

	providers at their table; provide handouts. J. Goldman questioned whether or not there is value in attending.	Centers for distribution.
Ice Breaker	Group Exercise: K. Grunwald led the group in an exercise based on Appreciative Inquiry: “Think about a time when you felt totally engaged and aligned with the work of MAC.”	
Decision Making –Self Assessment	MAC Decision Making –Community Decision Making Model: J. Stoughton reviewed results of the self-assessment and explained the Graustein model for community decision making. The model for a collaborative is not necessarily hierarchical: provides an opportunity for members of a community to work together to achieve results. Responsibility for decision-making should emanate from the collaborative, although the group may decide to pass the responsibility on so that something can happen at an executive level. Teams also have a responsibility to decide when decisions need to be moved, and communication with the larger collaborative is critical for this. Trust is also important in this process in terms of trusting that Team Leaders represent the group effectively at the Executive Council. C. Guerreri added that the organizational chart is a good reminder that we are not a hierarchy, but the collaborative is at the core. We also need to accept that not all decisions need to be made by the collaborative. While consensus is a preferred way of operating, we can get bogged down when there is a lot of disagreement. The responsibility of the Chairs is to make sure that decisions don’t languish, but that there is some action that is taken. A. Bloom clarified that in the self-assessment tool the answers for decision-making were reversed in terms of the rating scale, and the responses were actually very positive. MJ Newman said that the Executive Council did understand this, but this was not reflected in the analysis. J. Higham clarified that the topic was already on the table, which is why the Council wanted to introduce a model for decision-making. S. Baxter asked that individual members work through team leaders if they feel that the discussion has ended prematurely. Questions to Team Leaders if time runs out	Team Members see that any further questions are communicated to their team leader if time runs out in the larger MAC group to discuss a decision.
MOA’s	MOA’s What’s comes before and how to develop one Make Action Plans detailed	Discussed at last month’s meeting.

Team Assignments	Work on Action Plans –be specific Story behind the numbers must come first MOAs: does your team have enough; are they specific enough? Team Meetings	Teams need to identify that they have all of the MOA's that they need, and that they are specific enough.
-------------------------	---	--

Meeting adjourned to Team Meetings at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Grunwald